

Complete List of Public Comments



Community Meeting #2 June 28, 2010

On June 28, 2010 staff from the City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) and the Chicago Avenue Corridor Plan Steering Committee hosted the second of three community meetings focused on the future of Chicago Avenue between I-94 and the Midtown Greenway. The purpose of the meeting was to present and discuss a draft opportunities map and draft future land use map. Following a presentation from staff, participants gathered around tables with large versions of the draft opportunities map to discuss and write comments on the maps. A representative from each table then presented a summary of each discussion to the larger group. Participants also had the opportunity to provide feedback on a survey response form. Following is a complete list of comments provided on the maps and survey response forms.

DRAFT OPPORTUNITIES MAP

- Very well done! Challenges and Opportunities accurately addressed and depicted on maps.
- Demonstrates a future use which in general will aid the direction of development. It also gives reason that it may not be the most desirable location to live.
- I am pleased with how public input has been accurately represented and included.
- Show future streetcar station and Greenway entrance ramp between Chicago and Elliott on Opportunities map.

DRAFT FUTURE LAND USE MAP

- Looks as I would have hoped based on [public] input. I appreciate (support) the recommendation to preserve some of the historic integrity of the architecture.
- It's too bad the area does not comport to other areas such as Xerxes Ave So (25th St south to the end of the city). There are many ideas but they seem to collide with what would give rise to a desirable location to go to.

GENERAL

- Safety: There is still a safety perception problem – it is better than the perception!
- Number of people out – critical mass to make it safer – are safety issues with who is out walking?
- Where is the child, parent, youth voice? Why is there practically nothing that addresses this? It should have its own section!
- What are the hospitals doing to better the local community?? (Nothing)!
- Would like to see more females and people of color to facilitate the discussions at the tables if possible

OVERALL LAND USE

- How do we work at being good neighbors to each other? How to share resources and make all the different uses coexist?
- Birthing center – is it an acceptable use?
- Would hospitals be able to expand across Chicago Avenue?
- AICDC has a proposal for mixed-use retail/housing at Franklin and Columbus
- Eastern half of 2400 block should be residential only (no retail)

RETAIL/OFFICE

- Coffee shop and café in Eye Institute not advertised
- West side of 2600 and 2700 blocks: opportunity area for ground floor retail across from hospitals
- High density housing along Park/Portland: “captive audience” for retail in walking distance
- Don’t want to have to leave neighborhood to find restaurants, shops, activities, etc.
- Need more retail midway between Franklin and Greenway.
- Need a small movie theater!
- Northwest corner of Franklin/Chicago: New health food/grocery
- Retail would help create a more vibrant corridor
- Retail is why some people chose their neighborhood (one person left this neighborhood for Lake and Lyndale because of lack of retail)

HOUSING

- Do you lose housing units to support commercial development? Want to retain housing/current uses!
- Proposed housing should include a mix of ownership and rental housing along Chicago Avenue

TRANSPORTATION

- Lack of parking is major issue – barrier to additional housing and/or retail
- Streets are the busiest during work hours, cleared out at night
- Somali mall traffic is heavy
- Existing parking ramps not available/affordable to neighboring institutions/residents
- Concern over streetcar and potential negative impacts on street width, parking, and hospitals
- One-way streets too fast – Park/Portland, 26th/28th – must be addressed – from a safety and livability standpoint
- Missing bike paths on Chicago? Link to Park/Portland – 24th Avenue bikeway improvements connecting to the bridge across the freeway
- Streetcar – reliable, legible, attracts investment vs. issues w/ traffic, how does it function

- Streetcar – Midtown Greenway connection
 - Faster, reliable regional connection
 - Intersection – very important - key public spaces needed – ramp down to the greenway
 - Redevelopment of DDS building and parking lot should consider ways to front the Greenway and Chicago Avenue and have enough public space for a busy, welcoming entrance
- The one ways are a huge barrier to children, youth, and parents!
- The go-to bikes are lame since the neighborhood can't use them!
- Streetcar is stupid!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Available jobs need qualified people – matching jobs to skills
- Hope Academy: 3 empty floors – work with owners – job development

URBAN DESIGN

- West side of 2600 block: new development to reflect traditional building character
- West side of 2700 block: architectural guidelines – is a historic district appropriate? The uses shown in the future land use map are fine – protecting the architectural character here is important.
- Façade of DDS building needs improvement

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- Hard to access Peavey Park for children/families due to heavy traffic and difficulty crossing streets
- Peavey Park: Importance of linking recreation space to the Chicago corridor. Includes the Greenway
- Need any special zoning or land use to create pocket gardens/green space?
- Emphasize the Greenway's value to this corridor
- Stewart Park needs better linkage to Chicago Ave corridor
- We need pocket open spaces!

Participants at one table chose to focus exclusively on Peavey Park. The impromptu discussion at this table was facilitated by Professor Ignacio San Martin, Chair of Urban Design and Director of the Metropolitan Design Center at the University of Minnesota. The following summary of this conversation was provided by the professor and research fellow Adrienne Bockheim.

Chicago Avenue Corridor Planning Meeting – Monday, June 28th

Peavey Park Comment List (What residents/meeting attendants would like to see in the park):

- Quiet reflective spaces
- Preserve the plantings at the Chicago/Franklin corner
- Places and activities (programming) for children
- More positive energy on the Franklin/Chicago corner
- Open up 22nd St. cul-de-sac to the street
- Collaborate with community members (such as children and youth) to plan programming and spaces
- Full court basketball
- Restore Touchstone Plaza
- Cooperative park building
- Move existing bus stop near Touchstone Plaza somewhere else?
- Full size soccer field (for adults)
- Pool
- Recreational fields for children
- Better lighting
- Seating for recreational purposes (near rec. fields) and for passive enjoyment
- Problem: illicit activities in park discourage residents (esp families and children) from using the park
- Encourage ownership of the park for the residents of neighborhood
- Community meeting place (building), esp for children
- Farmer's market
- Parking for visitors (perhaps where current cul-de-sac is located, once opened up)
- Distinct spaces for different uses within the park (clearly defined spaces for different park uses)
- Winter activities (maybe not hockey/skating?)
- Better path system
- Focus on children and their safety/use of park